ELEMENTS OF COMET *e*, 1896.

By W. J. Hussey.

This comet was discovered August 31st by Mr. Sperra, of Randolph, Ohio, and was announced by Mr. William R. Brooks, of Geneva, New York, on September 4th. It was then situated above and near the end of the handle of the Big Dipper in the constellation *Ursa Major*. Its motion was southeasterly, through a region filled with nebulæ, many of which are brighter than the comet. On this account the comet could only be recognized by its motion. From my observations of September 6th, 8th and 11th, I have computed the following elements of its orbit:

$$T = \text{July } 10.41828 \text{ G. M. T.}$$

$$\left.\begin{aligned} \omega &= 40^\circ\ 17'\ 38''.0 \\ \Omega &= 150\ \ 59\ \ 47\ .1 \\ \pi &= 191\ \ 17\ \ 25\ .1 \\ i &= \ \ 88\ \ 24\ \ 46\ .4 \end{aligned}\right\} \text{Mean Equinox } 1896.0$$

$$\log q = 0.055430$$

Residuals for the middle place:

$$\Delta\lambda \cos\beta = +\,0''.3;\ \Delta\beta = +\,0''.8.$$

It will be seen that the comet is already long past perihelion, and for an object so faint and diffuse, it cannot remain visible very long.

Mount Hamilton, Cal., September 16, 1896.